

January 24, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

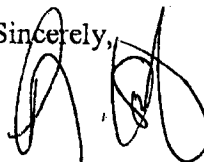
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to you today to ask that you agree with the terms of the settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. The settlement was finally reached in November of last year after three long years of litigation and six months of continuous negotiation. The settlement proposes terms that are in the best interests not only of the plaintiffs and the defendant, but also of the public and the IT industry as a whole. It is now time to move on and take care of more important issues.

The proposed settlement requires a variety of changes on Microsoft's part. For example, Microsoft will be required to license its Windows operating system to twenty of the largest computer makers on identical terms and conditions. Microsoft has also agreed to refrain from entering into any contract that would require a third party to either sell or promote Microsoft software at a fixed percentage. These terms are entirely reasonable. America is struggling through a recession, and the effects are being felt worldwide. Consumer confidence and spending are at their lowest point in ten years, and something needs to be done. The economic downturn began three years ago when the Justice Department initially brought suit against Microsoft, and has been snowballing ever since. Now that this settlement has been proposed and competition has been increased, the economy will be given the boost it so desperately needs.

Please help America's economy get back on its feet as soon as possible. I urge you to support the terms of the settlement that was reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. No further action needs to be taken on the federal level.

Sincerely,



Stephen Knopf
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